MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
Achievement Matters Most

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MSDE ON THE INTERNET:

HOME SITE
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DATA

Fact Sheet

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Does MSDE offer information via the Internet?

The Maryland State Department of Education maintains three Web sites, providing abundant facts and statistics about public education in Maryland. These sites were designed to accommodate a wide spectrum of users with varying purposes and computer skills. Students, parents, educators, and other stakeholders in public education will find a wealth of information on these pages.

◆ MSDE Home Site: **www.marylandpublicschools.org**

◆ School Improvement in Maryland: **www.mdk12.org**

◆ Maryland School Performance Report: **www.mdreportcard.org**

What information does the MSDE Home Site contain?

The MSDE Home Site contains links to updated information, including:

◆ Educational programs, policies, testing, curriculum, and teacher certification

◆ MSDE publications, including the *MSDE Bulletin* and *Maryland Classroom*

◆ Maryland State Board of Education information, including agendas, legal opinions, and member biographies

◆ Statewide initiatives, such as Minority Achievement in Maryland, Take 15 for the Family, and Gifted & Talented Education

◆ An MSDE organizational chart and employee directory

◆ Other State resources.

What information does the Maryland School Performance Web site contain?

This Web site offers detailed information about student performance, including:

◆ Maryland School Assessment (MSA) and High School Assessment (HSA) data at state, system and school levels

◆ Disaggregated test data

◆ Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status at the state, system and school levels

◆ List of schools identified for school improvement

◆ Statistics such as attendance and dropout rates

◆ Data files you can download.

What information does the School Improvement in Maryland Web site contain?

The School Improvement in Maryland site was funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant from the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. It is designed to help School Improvement Teams examine assessment data and identify the best instructional practices to improve student performance. Although this site was designed primarily for educators, many parents, students, and other education stakeholders will benefit from this perspective on Maryland's sustained school improvement process.

This site provides valuable resources, including:

- MSA and HSA information
- A tutorial on Adequate Yearly Progress
- Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum
- Maryland Core Learning Goals
- A history of education reform in Maryland
- How to organize a School Improvement Team
- Tips on writing a school improvement plan
- Tools for collecting and analyzing data
- How to identify short- and long-term school improvement goals
- Recommendations about creating a school profile
- MSDE's 10-step school improvement process
- General and content-specific instructional strategies that promote student success
- Interactive opportunities such as "Ask the Expert"
- Links to useful school improvement resources.

What if I do not have Internet access or cannot find the information I need on these Web sites?

You do not need a computer at home to access the Internet. You can visit your local library and use a computer equipped with SAILOR, Maryland's online public information network, to access the Internet. See Fact Sheet #18 for a full discussion of SAILOR.

If your local library does not have SAILOR, or if you would prefer to speak with someone directly, call the Maryland State Department of Education locally at 410-767-0600 or toll-free at 1-888-246-0016.